



NEWS RELEASE

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Former LAUSD Teacher Pleads to Child Abuse

A former fourth grade teacher at Rosewood Elementary School in Los Angeles pleaded no contest today to one count of child abuse for placing a plastic bag over a student's head in class, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Thelmo Garcia, 37, was ordered to attend weekly psychiatric counseling for an undetermined amount of time and to complete 100 days of CalTrans work. In addition, he must complete 52 weeks of child abuse counseling and he is barred from teaching minors under 18 while on probation for five years in case BA434476.

Deputy District Attorney Samuel Hulefeld with the Family Violence Division, who prosecuted the case, said if Garcia successfully completes all of the required terms and conditions, his felony conviction will be reduced to a misdemeanor when he returns for sentencing in two years.

Garcia admitted placing a plastic bag over a 10-year-old girl's head during class on Feb. 5. After several seconds, he removed the bag. The child was uninjured.

If Garcia fails to comply with the conditions, he faces up to six years in state prison.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.